

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

_____ Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the controller performs control to divide originals constituted by a bundle of pages within one job into a plurality of groups. See, for example, the disclosure of the elected first embodiment (beginning at page 22, line 17).

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-5, 8, and 9 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of US 2004/0107854 ("Nakatani et al") and USP 6,621,993 ("Tamai et al"); claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Nakatani et al, Tamai et al, and US 2003/0016391 ("Tamura"); and claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Nakatani et al, Tamai et al, and US 2002/0051207 ("Ohkubo et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

The Examiner acknowledges on page 6 of the Final Office Action that Nakatani et al does not disclose a controller as recited in claim 1. For this reason, the Examiner has cited Tamai et al to supply the missing teachings of Nakatani et al.

Tamai et al, however, merely discloses that jobs that are originally separate from each other are combined. See Figs. 6-9, column 5, lines 51-53, column 7, lines 22-35, and the process described at column 7, line 35 to column 8, line 14. For example, as shown in Fig. 9(b), with the technique disclosed by Tamai et al an operator can instruct the apparatus to link first and second jobs by inserting pages of one job in between pages of another job (e.g., page 1 of the second image job is printed, then pages 1-9 of the first image job, then another page of the second image job, and so on). After combining the jobs, image printing conditions are set.

By contrast, according to the present invention as recited in amended claim 1, a controller performs control to: (i) divide originals constituted by a bundle of pages within one job into a plurality of groups in printing copied images from the originals constituted by the bundle of pages within the one job, (ii) make the setting device set different image printing conditions for each group within the one job, (iii) make the image reader read images on originals for each group when the read start button is pressed, (iv) make the storage store the original images as the

one job, and (v) make the image printing device print copied images for each group in accordance with the different image printing conditions set for each group within the one job with respect to all the groups within the one job when the image printing start button is pressed.

Thus, according to amended independent claim 1, one original job is divided into a plurality of groups and image printing conditions are set for each group within the job.

It is respectfully submitted that Tamai et al clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest a controller corresponding to the controller of the present invention as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if Tamai et al were combinable with Nakatani et al as suggested by the Examiner, the structure of the present invention as recited in claim 1 still would not be achieved or rendered obvious.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that amended independent claim 1 and claims 2-9 depending therefrom clearly patentably distinguish over Nakatani et al, Tamai et al, Tamura, and Ohkubo et al, taken in any combination under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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